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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,684	03/22/2004	Kazumasa Yoshikawa	CFA00061US	2363

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CANON U.S.A. INC. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
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EXAMINER

MISLEH, JUSTIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/12/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/806,684	Applicant(s) YOSHIKAWA, KAZUMASA	
	Examiner Justin P. Misleh	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 9 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 7, 10 - 13, and 15 - 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/13/04; 9/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Species I (figures 1 – 3) in the reply filed on June 26, 2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that while each of the Species are directed to alternative embodiments, they are all seen to include the same underlying characterized feature of a camera system with a relay unit have an auto-focus/manual-focus switching signal input means for switching between whether to control a focus lens with auto-focus control or manual-focus control on a remote control unit. This is not found persuasive because Species I is directed to a camera system with a relay unit having AF/MF switching signal input means for switching between whether to control a focus lens with AF control or MF control on a remote control unit based upon speed and position signals provided therefrom; Species II is directed to a camera system with a lens unit having speed and position controls; Species III is directed to a camera system with a relay unit having speed generating command units; Species IV is directed to a camera system with a relay unit having AF/MF switching signal input means for switching between whether to control a focus lens with AF control or MF control on a remote control unit based upon MF selecting command signals provided therefrom; and Species V is directed to a camera system having no relay unit.
2. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.
3. Applicant elected Claims 1 – 19 are pertaining to elected Species I (figures 1 – 3). However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the election. Claims 8, 9, and 14 appear to be drawn to a second remote control unit and a third switch means, respectively, all of which are

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absent from figures 1 – 3. Therefore, Claims 8, 9, and 14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Specification

4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1 – 5, 7, 10 – 13, and 15 – 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iguchi et al. (US 4,763,154).

Independent Claims 1, 11, 12, and 18 are substantively similar, wherein Claim 1 appears to the most comprehensive and representative of the set. Accordingly, for the sake of brevity, Claims 1, 11, 12, and 18 will be rejected together. Moreover, where appropriate, dependent claims will also be rejected together.

7. For **Claims 1, 11, 12, and 18**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, a relay unit (combination of motor driver circuit 163 and CPU 143) comprising:

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an input terminal (manual range setting unit 162 provides a signal to the unidentified input terminal of the motor driver circuit 163 which is part of the relay unit) communicably coupled to a remote control unit (the manual range setting unit 162 is remote to the identified relay unit), for receiving signals from said remote control unit;

an output terminal (terminal upon which signals to drive the motor 161 are output from) communicably coupled to an optical unit (encoder 157, set position detector 156, focal length detector 155, and lens 111 are the optical unit) having a focus lens (lens 111), the output terminal for providing said signals from the remote control unit (the manual range setting unit 162 sends signals to the identified relay unit, which subsequently sends those signals to the identified optical unit) to the optical unit;

and first switching signal input means (CPU 143) for controlling the focus lens (111) by switching between automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands from said remote control unit (Switch 158 decides between automatic focus control and manual focus control and the CPU 143 responds accordingly with the changing of the switch. In automatic focus control, the CPU 143 controls the movement of the lens 111 and in manual focus control, the manual range setting unit 162 controls the movement of the lens 111. As indicated above, the motor drive circuit 163 and the CPU 143 together form the relay unit. See column 15, line 42 – column 16, line 24).

8. As for **Claims 2, 13, 17, and 19**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, wherein said input terminal (manual range setting unit 162 provides a signal to the unidentified input terminal of the motor driver circuit 163 which is part of the relay unit) is communicably coupled to a second switching signal input means (motor 161 combined with the encoder 157, set

position detector 156, and the focal length detector 155 together form the second switching signal input means) for controlling the focus lens (111) by switching between speed control and positional control of the focus lens (encoder 157 provides the relay unit 163 with information about the position of the lens such that the relay unit 163 instructs the motor 161 rotate and move the lens at a certain speed. See column 15, line 42 – column 16, line 24).

9. As for **Claim 3**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, wherein said input terminal (manual range setting unit 162 provides a signal to the unidentified input terminal of the motor driver circuit 163 which is part of the relay unit) is communicably coupled to a first remote command generating means (manual range setting unit 162) for performing remote operations to control the focus lens (111).

10. As for **Claims 4 and 5**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, wherein output signals from said first switching signal input means (CPU 143) are multiplexed (via multiplexers 153 and 154) with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means (manual range setting unit 162 provides a signal to the unidentified input terminal of the motor driver circuit 163 which is part of the relay unit).

Automatic focus control, which is determined via switch 158, is controlled via the relay unit (CPU 143 and driver circuit 163). The relay unit (CPU 143 and driver circuit 163) relies upon image signals provided by the ADC 151 and amplifier 150 to control the optical unit. Therefore, the output signals from said first switching signal input means (CPU 143) are in-effect multiplexed with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means.

11. As for **Claim 7**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, wherein said first switching signal input means (switch 158) switch control of said focus lens between automatic focal point

detection focusing of an automatic focal point detection focus control means and control of said focus lens by remote commands from said remote control unit, by momentary action (Switch 158 indicates that automatic focus control is either on or off. Therefore, the switch 158 provides momentary action. See column 15, line 42 – column 16, line 24).

12. As for **Claim 10**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, wherein, in the mode wherein said focus lens is controlled by automatic focal point detection focusing of said automatic focal point detection focus control means (determined via switch 158), said first remote command generating means generate speed command signals or controlling said focus lens with speed commands (manual range setting unit 162 – see column 15, line 42 – column 16, line 24).

13. As for **Claim 15**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, wherein said optical unit (encoder 157, set position detector 156, focal length detector 155, and lens 111) are the optical unit is a lens unit.

14. As for **Claim 16**, Iguchi et al. disclose, as shown in figure 10, further comprising a camera unit (112), wherein said camera unit (122) and said lens (111) are communicably coupled to the relay unit (143 and 163).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. **Claim 6** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iguchi et al. (US 4,763,154).

17. As for **Claim 6**, Iguchi et al. do not specifically disclose a setting state display means for displaying the setting state of said first switching signal input means.

However, **Official Notice** (MPEP § 2144.03) is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a display to display an automatic focus control mode or manual focus control mode are well known and expected in the art. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to provide Iguchi et al. with a display to display an automatic focus control mode or manual focus control mode for the advantage of obtaining precise camera operation.

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571.272.7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM' with a stylized flourish.

Justin Misleh

Examiner, GAU 2622

September 4, 2007